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measure of his Country's glory."

Resolved,

That we deem it impossible for

any political party to sustain itself without con-

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And to effect this regular nom-

nations became highly expedient; that the will

of the People when fairly expressed through

their delegates in convention assembled for that

purpose should command implicit obedience.

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That a frequent change of public

Officers is one of the first and vital principles

of a democratic Government, and that in making this change no incumbent has a right to feel himself injured or slighted in the smallest de-

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**OPOSSUM HUNTING IN INDIANA.** One day, as I was leisurely riding along through a heavily timbered district, I came suddenly upon a lad apparently between ten and twelve years of age. I had passed no house for many miles, and could see no 'clearing' in any direction around me. I was surprised to find a mere child alone in such a wilderness. I dismounted and approached him. He stood at the foot of a dead tree, from a hole among the roots of which every now and then issued a tremendous growl. He turned his eyes upon me for a moment as I neared him, and I was struck with the intelligence of his countenance, and his apparent indifference at the approach of a stranger. He had a certain waggle look, and over two or three times with my foot.

'As dead as it was before, and I'll show you time and patience to spend the whole year in getting there was discovered on the farm of Mr. J. Sykes, in the north part of the town of Java, a remarkable breach in the earth, extending from Seneca creek, west, across a small flat of a few rods in extent, up the side of a hill, the slope of which was about forty-five rods in length. It was twenty rods wide at the end next to the creek, thirteen at the middle, and sixteen at the upper end, where the earth was sunk from twenty-five to thirty feet, while it was raised about twenty feet above the bottom of the creek at its lower end, making the highest point at the creek nearly as high as the lowest depression at the other extremity. The bed of the creek was raised about twenty feet, and carried about 2 rods beyond its former situation. The ground was thrown into ridges from two to ten feet high. A considerable portion of the surface has entirely disappeared, presenting in its stead several strata of different kinds of earth. Trees, stumps and logs were carried twelve or fifteen rods. A small grove of timber, some of which was twenty inches through, was carried above distance, some standing, some broken down, and some torn up by the roots. In some instances, logs and other ponderous substances, that were in contact, were separated six or eight rods, and others, before at a distance, were thrown together. There are many conjectures concerning it, but none can satisfactorily account for it.

'What have you, my boy?' enquired I, after surveying him for a few moments.

'A stick, if I know,' replied the urchin, turning up as quizzical an eye as can be found in a thousand, and then giving the occupant of the hole a tremendous punch, which brought forth a growl that made the woods reverberate.

'And a pretty sharp one too if I know?' responded I, smiling. 'But what have you treed?

'I have a "possum holed," replied the boy, giving a second arch look, and another tremendous punch.

'I should rather think you had him halved,' said I, stooping down and peeping into the burrow.

'Do you belong in these here parts?' asked he, eyeing me attentively, though with something of a leer, as before.

'I do not, sir.'

'You're a traveller, looken at the land, 'specton to purchase, if I know,' continued the boy.

'Specton to purchase?' It cannot be the imp

of a band of robbers, thought I, wishing to sound my purse. But I almost immediately replied: 'A traveller though not on a land speculating tour, if I know.'

'You never lived in the woods, I 'low,' said he.

'I never did. But how do you know that?'

'I think so. An' you never hunted "possums?"

'No—never.'

'I thought that too. Why,' he continued, dropping his pole, and assuming a look of some importance, when you've been as long in these here back-woods as me, you won't talk of halving a "possum in its hole. They've more lives nor a cat, and I might stand here till harvest and punch, and be no better off. Wait a min-

ute or two, and I'll show you how to hole a "possum, a little the slickest.'

Saying this, he took a large jackknife from one of his pockets, and an arrow head flint from another, and heaping together a few pieces of spunk, or dry rotten wood, he struck, and in the course of ten minutes had a 'pretty smart' fire kindled at the mouth of the 'possum's hole. This, he said was for the purpose of 'smoking him out.' Pleased with the boy's activity, and the almost manliness of his every action, I seated myself at a short distance, to watch his movements.

'The tree may burn, and your horse may get scared and break away, if I know,' said he, 'and you had better look out.'

But before I had time to look round, a large 'possum galloped past me. The young 'Hoosier,' however, was close in the rear, and the animal's flight was soon stopped; for no sooner did I feel the weight of the boy's stick, than it had emerged to the light, where its movements could be seen, than it dropped down, and keeled over on its side, to all appearance dead.

'That was a well aimed blow, my boy,' said I.

'But it han't done much, though, if I know,' said he with a knowing shake of the head.

'Why, you have killed the animal,' said I, 'and what more do you want?'

'I want to *have* it,' replied he, not yet forgetting my witicism, and with an arch smile, which I did not exactly comprehend.

'And if you will hold it up by the hind legs for a moment, I'll show you how we do these things back here.'

I assented though not without some fears of his waggery, and he again whipped out his jack-knife. But the blade had hardly found its way through the animal's skin, when I flung the opossum over my head to the distance of twenty feet, and jumped nearly as far in an opposite direction. The truth was, I soon felt the animal's cold tail against my wrist, and looking down, saw its eyes glaring, its jaws extended, and its back curving to a degree that would soon have brought its mouth in very close neighborhood with my hands. I thought it best to get rid of such 'dead charge,' as soon as possible; and in less than no time, as the young Hoosier would say, I and the opossum were something like a distance of forty feet apart. The boy had anticipated the result; and seizing a club, he bounded after his enemy, and soon brought it to its back again, 'as dead as ever.' He then turned round, and enjoyed a hearty laugh at my expense, apologizing, however, by 'posing it pardon him, as it mought have been dead.' And though I was not ignorant of the character of the animal, *dead* I certainly thought it was after receiving such an unmerciful punching, and such a blow as the young Hercules had given it when it emerged from its hole.

'I presume he is dead now,' said I, approaching.

'As dead as it was afore, if I know,' answer-

ed the boy. 'Why, these here things has fifty task, might reap an abundant harvest at Key shelves, to prevent its breaking. In the morning there was discovered on the farm of Mr. J. Sykes, in the north part of the town of Java, a remarkable breach in the earth, extending from Seneca creek, west, across a small flat of a few rods in extent, up the side of a hill, the slope of which was about forty-five rods in length. It was twenty rods wide at the end next to the creek, thirteen at the middle, and sixteen at the upper end, where the earth was sunk from twenty-five to thirty feet, while it was raised about twenty feet above the bottom of the creek at its lower end, making the highest point at the creek nearly as high as the lowest depression at the other extremity. The bed of the creek was raised about twenty feet, and carried about 2 rods beyond its former situation. The ground was thrown into ridges from two to ten feet high. A considerable portion of the surface has entirely disappeared, presenting in its stead several strata of different kinds of earth. Trees, stumps and logs were carried twelve or fifteen rods. A small grove of timber, some of which was twenty inches through, was carried above distance, some standing, some broken down, and some torn up by the roots. In some instances, logs and other ponderous substances, that were in contact, were separated six or eight rods, and others, before at a distance, were thrown together. There are many conjectures concerning it, but none can satisfactorily account for it.

'Relics of Mary, Queen of Scots.—Certain interesting relics of this never to be forgotten preparations for its execution. He cut a forked limb from a sapling, and sharpened the prongs. This he placed over the opossum, one of the prongs on each side, and driving them into the earth, thus confined the animal so that it could not possibly escape. He then took his jack-knife, and proceeded with great deliberation, to sever the animal's head from his body. Its struggles were great, but availed it nothing, and in a few minutes it was not only halved but quartered too, and its different parts were scattered over the ground.

It was near night, and I accompanied the youth to his home, which was about a mile distant from the scene of the preceding exploit, where I was made 'comfortable' till the next morning. I thought the little fellow had performed quite a heroic action, worthy of being recorded, as illustrative of the character of the backwoods youth. His parents, however, seemed to look upon it as a common affair; and his mother chid him that he had not taken an axe with him, instead of going and butchering the animal so unmercifully.'

**Key West.** A writer in the Charleston (S. C.) Mercury, who is giving Sketches of Florida, thus notices Key West, and its peculiar productions:—

The Cotton Tree is indigenous, not only to the Florida Keys, but also is the Main as far North as the latitude of Charleston Harbor. It resembles in color (being yellow) the East India Nankeen; the texture is woolly, and the plant perennial. It grows 10, 12, and 15 feet high. I am not aware that any experiments have been made in the cultivation of this Cotton. May it not be the same plant, seed of which has been sent to the States under the name of Peruvian Cotton?

The Torchwood Tree, as its name imports, is used for torches; it burns bright like lightning; and in combustion emits a pleasant odour resembling frankincense. From its pleasant smell, it is much used in smoking out Mosquitoes.

The Manchenele, when cut, emits a milky fluid, which if applied to the human body, is peculiarly irritating, and by some held to be poisonous. I recollect an anecdote which proves that the irritating properties may be communicated to the human body without actual contact, and may be driven off by decomposition resulting from heat. A number of men were engaged in clearing a road, they had cut down and set fire to several Manchenele trees.—Three or four of the party inadvertently set down to leeward of the burning trees: the smoke being conveyed to them by wind, produced a violent inflammation in all parts of their bodies which were uncovered. The inflammation however was most acute about the face and eyes. They were led home like blind men in a "pretty pickle."

They were very soon relieved by a solution of sugar of lead and opium, applied constantly with wet cloths until the heat subsided. I have never known fatal consequences to follow the application of the Manchenele.

This is nearly as flattering as a compliment we have somewhere seen bestowed upon the sons of "Swiate Ireland," which characterized them as "kind, warm-hearted and jocund; generous, hospitable, and bloody, the most audacious of incendiaries, the wildest and most delightful cut-throats in the world."

[Dover Eng.]

**Scene in New Orleans.**—A gentleman informed me that he overheard the following conversation in a hotel one morning in New Orleans, during the prevalence of the Cholera.

"How are you to-day?"

"Only so, so—Bar-keeper, give me a stiff Julep."

"Do you know that our particular friend J—kick'd the bucket last night?"

"You don't say so?—Will you take an anti-scorbutic?"

"Don't care if I do. Miss K—also has gone by the board."

"The d—l!—I was engaged to be married to her! What's the price of cotton this morning?"

[Baltimore Visiter.]

**THE PRESIDENT.**

It is with much pleasure we learn that the health of the President is improving daily.

We trust he will return greatly benefited, from his visit to the seashore. The arduous duties to which he is perpetually exposed here, is enough to wear down and enfeeble the most robust constitution. People at a distance have not the most remote idea of his labours.

He rises early in the morning and repiles to the room in which he transacts public business as they are called of several acres in extent, which did not contain one foot of dry land.

Nay more—I have seen channel ways of 12 or 14 feet deep, passing through these Islands, over which a natural bridge had been formed, by the Mangrove roots. In other places, I have known a few Mangrove trees, by attaching themselves to small sand bank, collect large beds of sand around them, upon which the sea deposits its shells and the birds of the air their eggs, and the seed of various plants which they have collected in their migrations. In process of time, when soil capable of supporting a stronger growth is formed, the Mangrove having per-

formed its designed use dies and is supplanted. There can be no doubt but that the whole of the Florida Keys have been formed in this way. That is to say: by the growth of coral and sponges, the drift of sand by the currents, the growth and offices of the Mangrove, and disposi-

tions of the sea and of birds.

A Naturalist who is well qualified for the removal of the glass and earthenware from their

lives, and will sometimes run after their heads' West and along the Reef. Many plants have been discovered on the Keys, peculiar to the direction of the fire he had kindled to migrate at particular seasons. Several birds

must be found by the Naturalist who has time and patience to spend the whole year in

the direction of the fire he had kindled to migrate at particular seasons. Several birds

are still known perfectly well what he was about. He was armed with a long stick, or pole sharpened at one end, which was very dexterously, but most unmercifully, thrust into the hole whence proceeded the terrible growling that had at first arrested my attention.

'What have you, my boy?' enquired I, after surveying him for a few moments.

'A stick, if I know,' replied the urchin, turning up as quizzical an eye as can be found in a thousand, and then giving the occupant of the hole a tremendous punch, which brought forth a growl that made the woods reverberate.

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